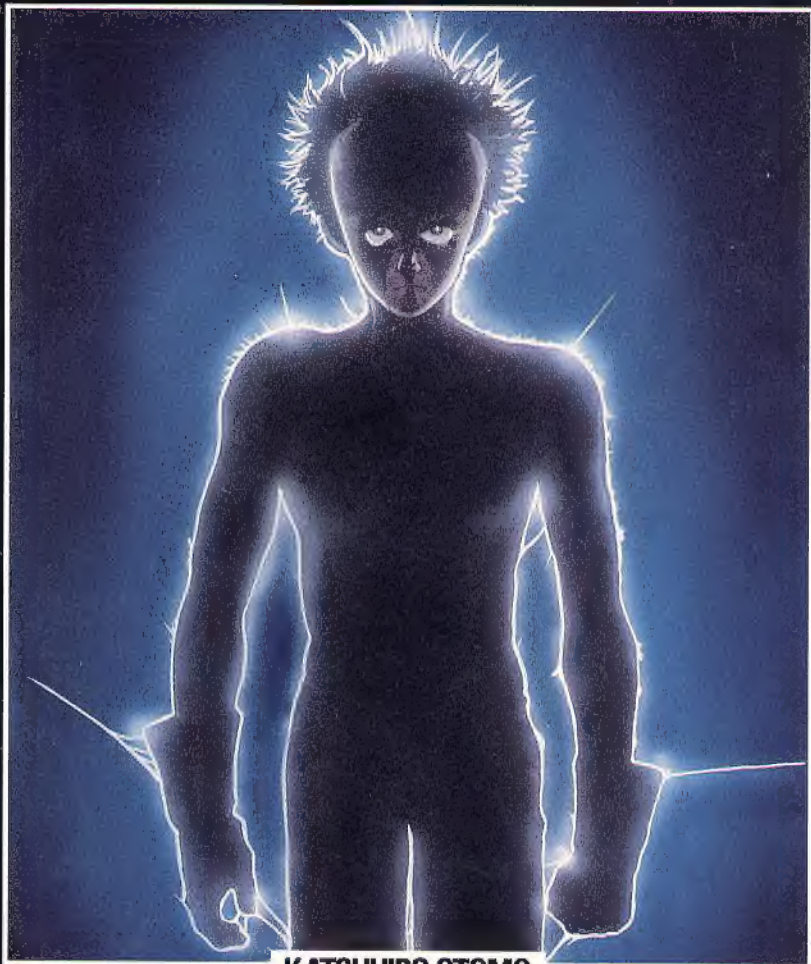


AKIRA 3™



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KATSUHIRO OTOMO



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AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

Chapter 3

NUMBER 41!

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE



cycle run into the old city to check out the old site and found far more than they expected. In an area said to be totally deserted, they encounter a strange, wizened-faced child, known only as **Number 26**. He is terrified of something and is possessed of extraordinary telekinetic abilities. During the encounter, the paranormal boy gravely injures **Tetsuo**, one of Kaneda's close friends. Then, he vanishes.

Kaneda's gang find themselves in serious trouble with the authorities following the incident, and they learn, to their surprise, that the "police" they encountered after the accident were not normal officers at all, but part of some secret concern. Moreover, **Tetsuo**, who they believed had been taken to a hospital, has disappeared.

The next night, at **Harukiya**, a tough local dive, **Kaneda** brazenly attempts to pick up **Kay**, a strange girl who catches his fancy. **Kay**, however, is not interested. In fact, she and her companion, **Ryu**, are part of an underground resistance organization, dedicated to learning what is happening in the old city and putting a stop to it.

During the mayhem that ensues, both the delinquents and

The year is 2030. The world is rebuilding from World War III. In **Neo-Tokyo**, plans are being made to hold the next Olympics in the "old city"—where, thirty-eight years before, the first of the bombs fell.

Kaneda and his friends—teenaged delinquents from the local vocational school—have made an unauthorized motor-



Kaneda



Tetsuo



Kay



Ryu



the resistance fighters again encounter **Number 26**, and again he uses his powers, to catastrophic effect. Both groups are scattered, but first **Ryu** and then **Kaneda** re-encounter **Number 26**. **Ryu** attempts to reassure the paranormal boy, but **Kaneda** is anxious to punish him for injuring **Tetsuo**.

As they argue, the mysterious soldiers pursuing **Number 26** reach the scene, armed and ready.

During the resulting firefight, **Kaneda** is separated from **Ryu** and **Number 26**, whom the soldiers are determined to recapture alive. **Kay** saves **Kaneda's** life, but **Ryu** and **Number 26** are cornered, and **Number 26** becomes increasingly ill, exhibiting all the symptoms of drug withdrawal. **Kaneda** returns the favor he owes the resistance

fighters by stealing a truck and heading back into the heart of the melee to save **Ryu** and **Number 26**.

That is when the mysterious **Colonel** in charge of the entire covert operation puts in an appearance, bringing forward his secret weapon—**Number 27**, a crippled paranormal child named **Masaru**.

Masaru astonishes the resistance fighters by addressing **Number 26** as **Takashi. Kay** and **Ryu** had previously assumed that **Number 26** was the Colonel's ultimate weapon—the as-yet unseen paranormal giant code-named **Akira**.

Kaneda provokes a crisis by pretending to be on the verge of killing **Takashi**, and **Takashi** responds to the stress this causes by telekinetic upheavals that virtually destroy the entire



Takashi



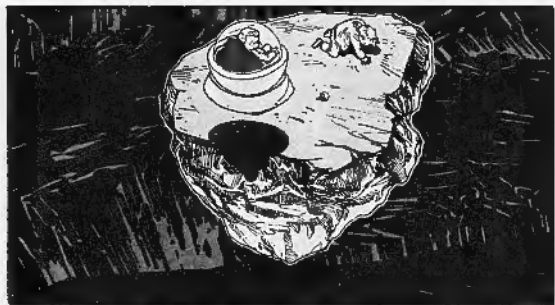
The Colonel



Masaru



Yamagata



area. During the course of the cataclysm, **Kaneda** is again separated from the resistance fighters, but he manages to intercept and hide a pill meant for **Takashi**, who is recaptured by the Colonel's men.

The next day, **Tetsuo** reappears in school, seemingly little the worse for his experiences. However, during the course of his treatment, it has come to the attention of **the Colonel** and his followers that **Tetsuo** has great psychic potential and would be a valuable asset to them.

Kaneda talks his girlfriend—who works in the school infirmary and keeps his entire band of delinquents supplied with drugs—into analyzing the drug intended for **Takashi**, and she tells him that it is similar in substance to what he and his friends take, but unbelievably concentrated and powerful.

Eager for action, **Kaneda**, **Tetsuo** and their gang head out for a rumble with their chief rivals—the vicious **Clown** gang.



**Kaneda's
Girl Friend**



**Government
Soldier**



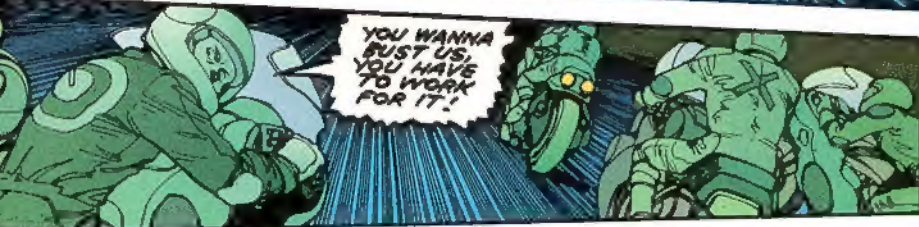
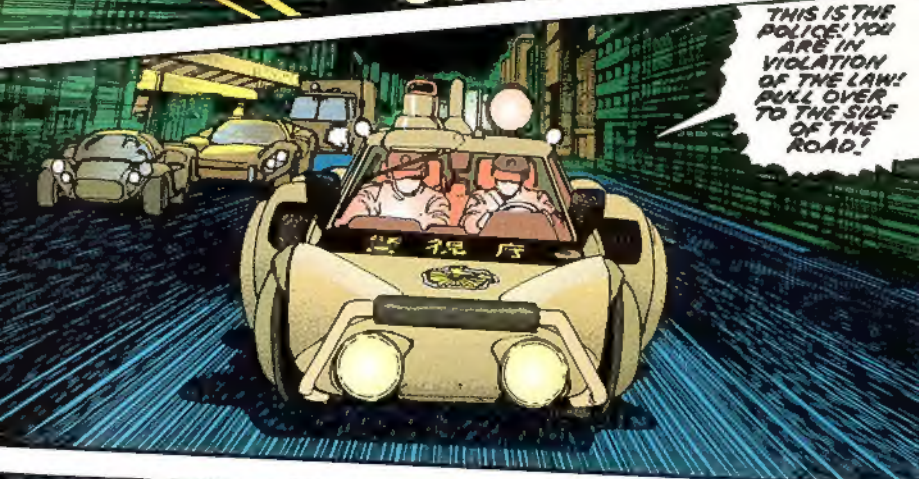
**Harukiya
Bartender**



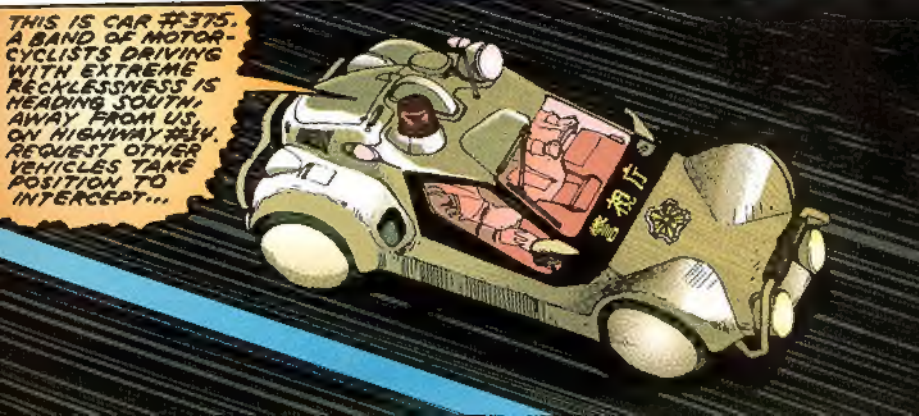
**Resistance
Agent**

AAAAA00000

AAAAA00000



THIS IS CAR #375. A BAND OF MOTORCYCLISTS DRIVING WITH EXTREME RECKLESSNESS IS HEADING SOUTH, AWAY FROM US, ON HIGHWAY #14. REQUEST OTHER VEHICLES TAKE POSITION TO INTERCEPT...





DRRRRRRN



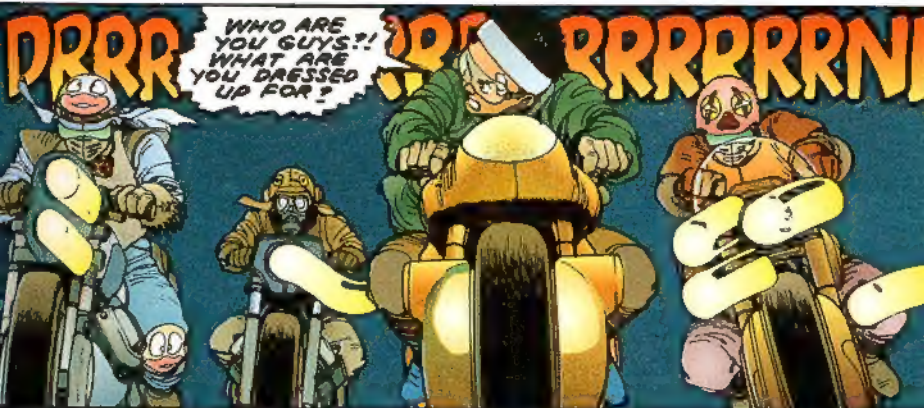
HEH-HEH-HEH...
THIS IS GREAT!



HUNH?

ZZZZZZON

ZZZZZZON



DRRR

WHO ARE
YOU GUYS?!!
WHAT ARE
YOU DRESSED
UP FOR?

DRRR

RRRRRRRN

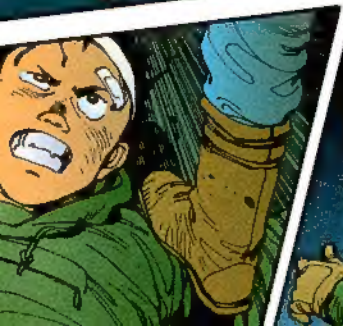
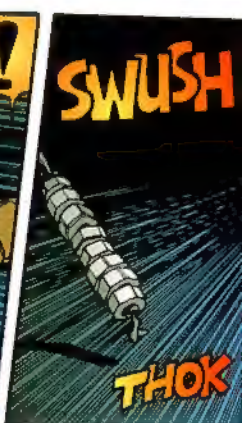
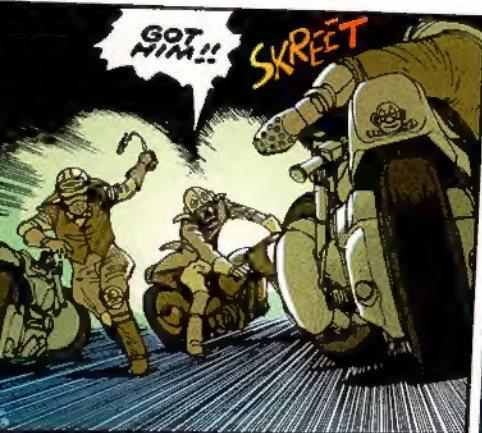


CHIK

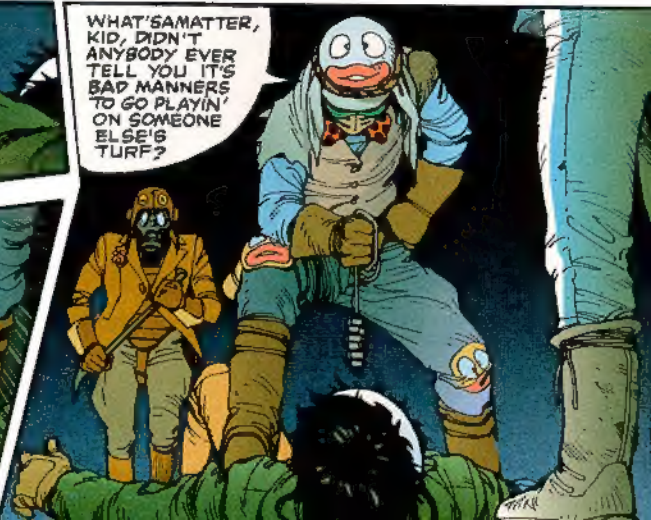


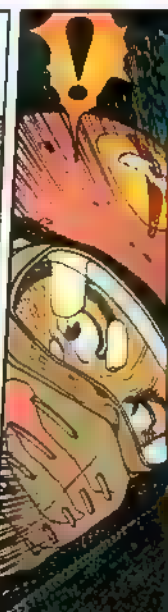
ACK

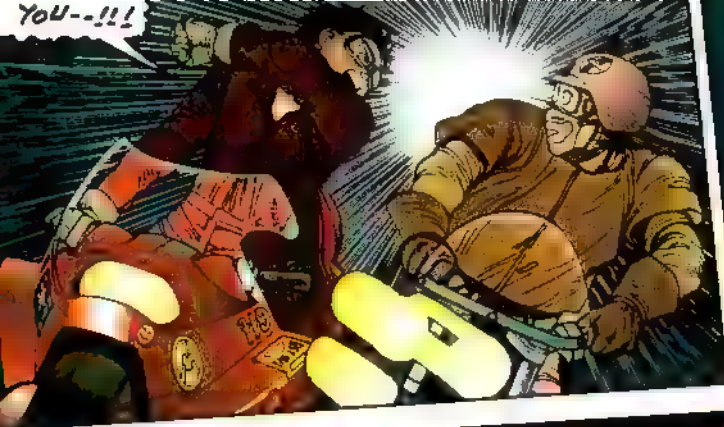
CHUNK

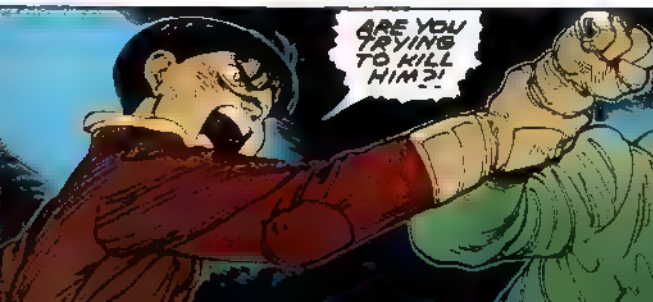
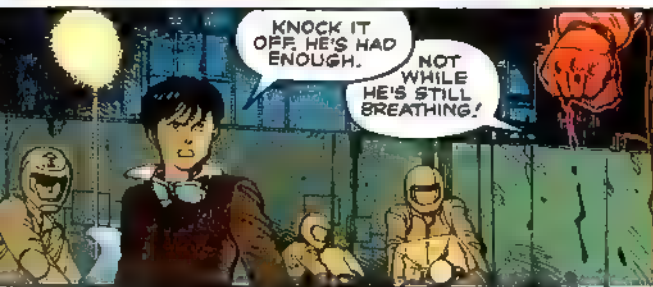
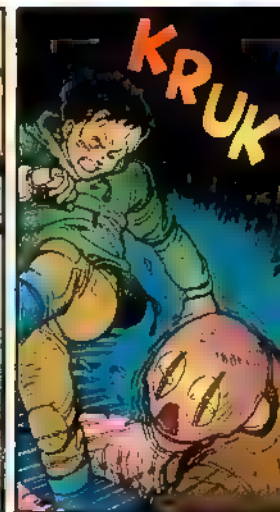


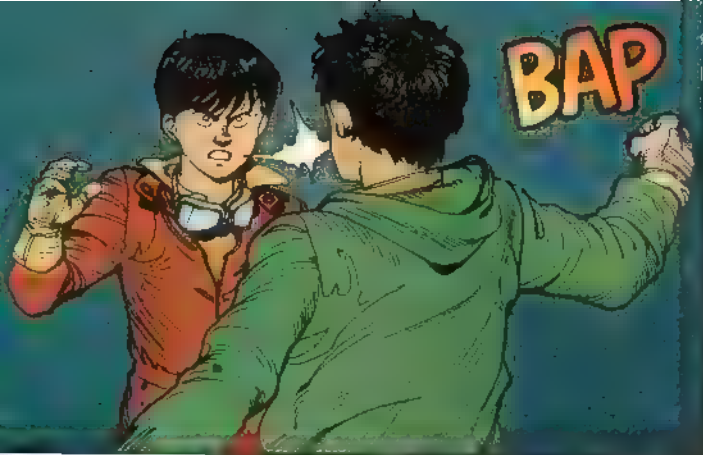
WHAT'SAMATTER,
KID, DIDN'T
ANYBODY EVER
TELL YOU IT'S
BAD MANNERS
TO GO PLAYIN'
ON SOMEONE
ELSE'S
TURF?











BAP



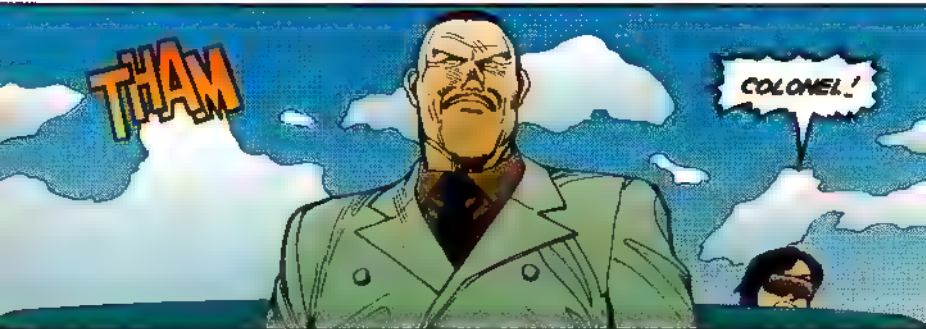
I DON'T TAKE
ORDERS FROM
YOU.



SAY
WHAT?!

I SAID I DON'T
TAKE ORDERS
FROM YOU,
KANEDA, YOU
GOT THAT?



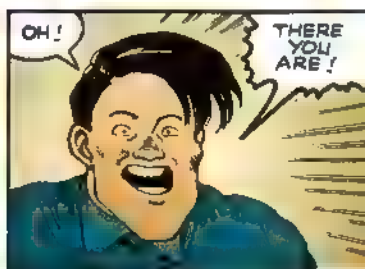
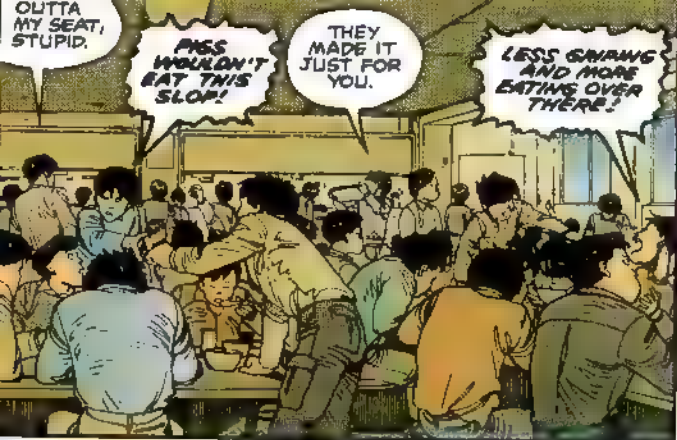


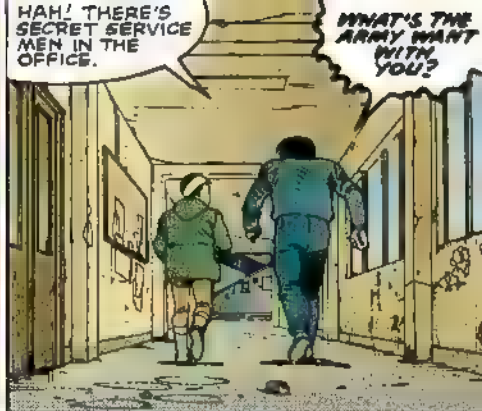
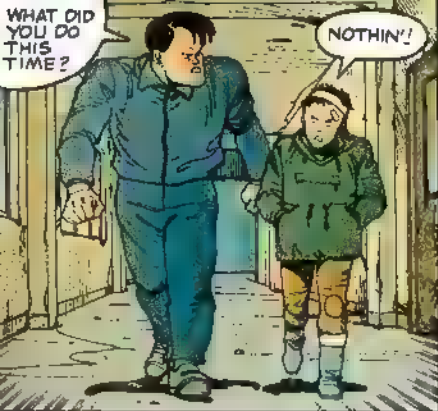
OUTTA
MY SEAT,
STUPID.

PISS
WOULDN'T
EAT THIS
SLOP!

THEY
MADE IT
JUST FOR
YOU.

LESS GRAWING
AND MORE
EATING OVER
THERE!

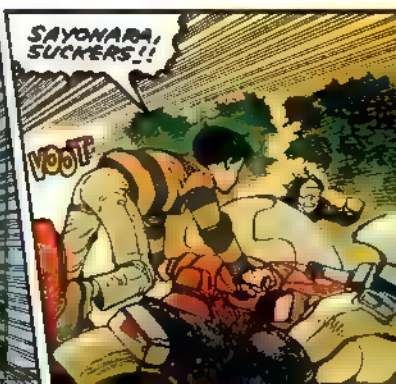
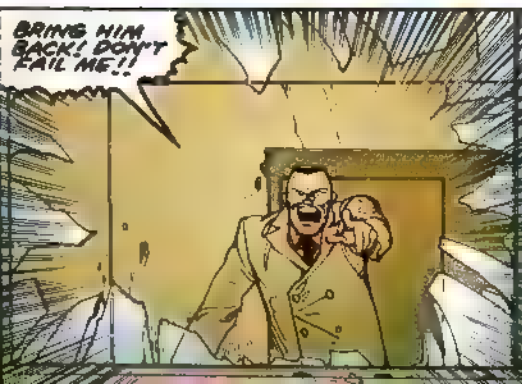
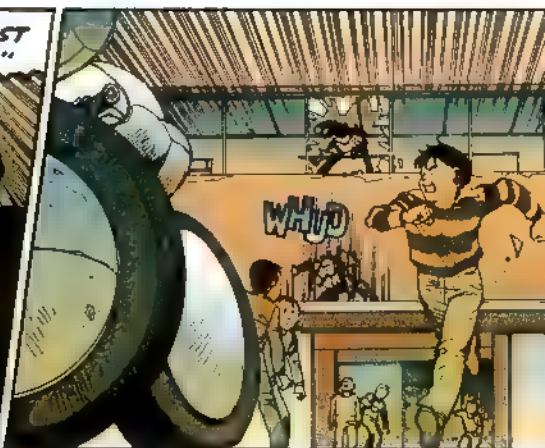
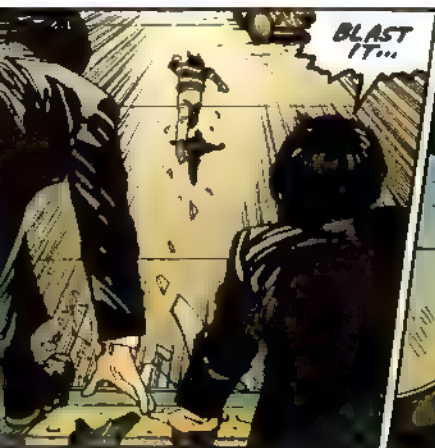


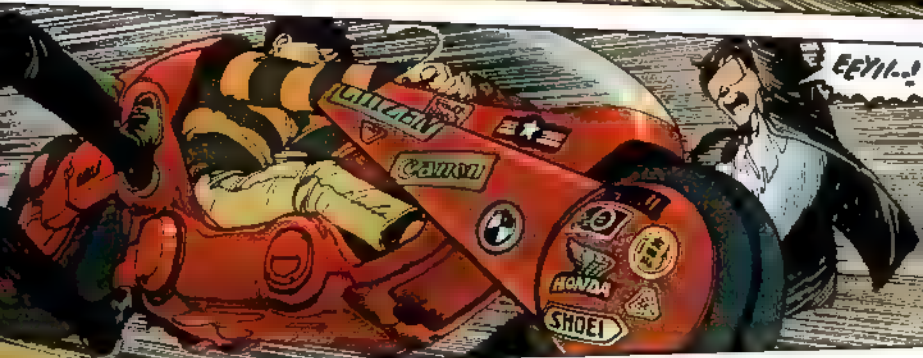


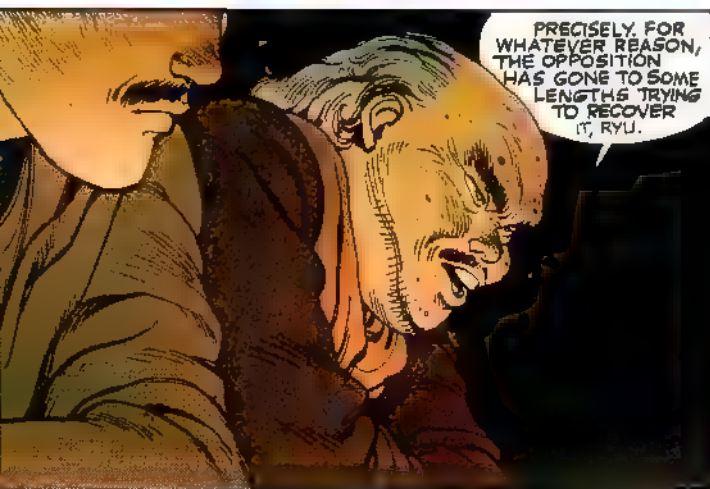
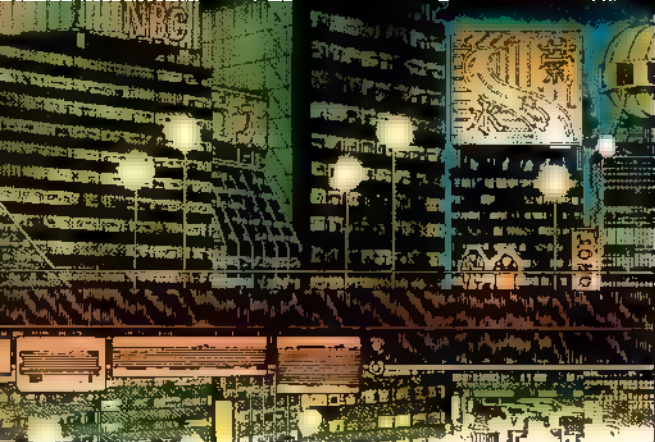
HEY! I WAS GONNA GO TO THE HOSPITAL LIKE YOU PEOPLE TOLD ME... WHAT'S THE MATTER? DON'T YOU TRUST ME?

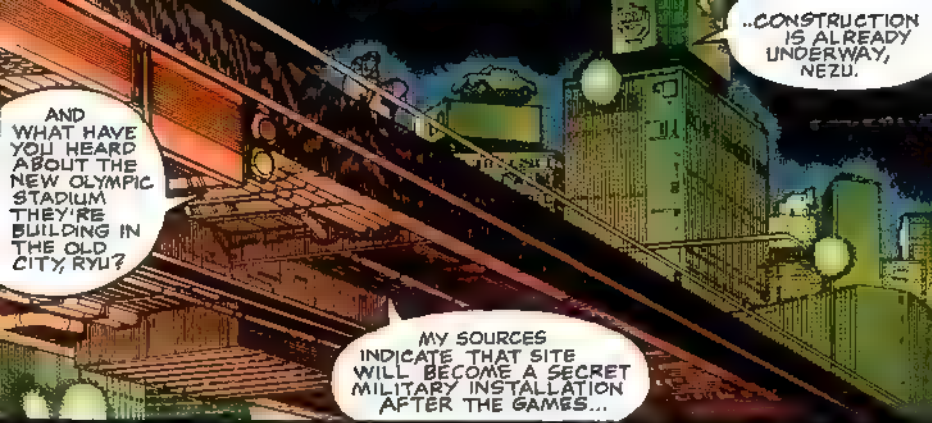
EH...?











AND
WHAT HAVE
YOU HEARD
ABOUT THE
NEW OLYMPIC
STADIUM
THEY'RE
BUILDING IN
THE OLD
CITY, RYU?

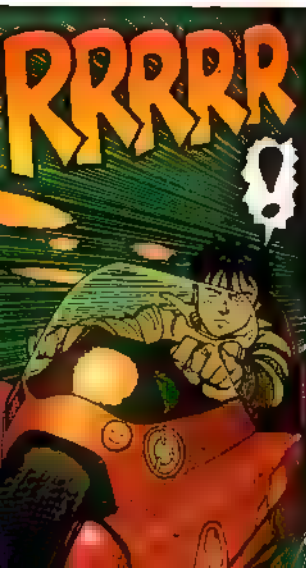
...CONSTRUCTION
IS ALREADY
UNDERWAY,
NEZU.

MY SOURCES
INDICATE THAT SITE
WILL BECOME A SECRET
MILITARY INSTALLATION
AFTER THE GAMES...

YES, WE'VE ALREADY
GIVEN THE CIVIL
AUTHORITIES ENOUGH
PROMPTING. ALL WE NEED
NOW IS SOMETHING TO
START THE PUBLIC
OUTCRY.

YOU MEAN AN
INCIDENT, NEZU?

YES. A MAJOR
INCIDENT!



RRRRRR

!



SITE OF THE 2031 TOKYO
OLYMPICS
NO UNAUTHORIZED
VEHICLES ALLOWED



HAH!

**YOU
INCOMPETENT
IMBECILES!!**

WHAM

YESSIR!

**WE'RE
SORRY,
SIR!**

**NOT AS SORRY
AS YOU'LL BE
FOR FAILING
ME!**

creek

**NOW GET OUT
OF HERE!
YOU'RE
WASTING MY
TIME.**

**WHAT
WAS
THAT ALL
ABOUT?**

**NOTHING
THAT CONCERNS
YOU.**

**WHAT HAVE YOU
DONE WITH...
TETSUO SHIMA,
ISN'T THAT HIS
NAME?**

I'VE GIVEN HIM
A SEDATIVE. TOMORROW,
WHEN HE WAKES UP, WE
CAN BEGIN INTENSIVE
EXAMINATIONS.

WHEN MAY
I EXPECT
YOUR
REPORT?



IT WILL TAKE ABOUT
THREE WEEKS TO
COMPILE ALL THE
DATA.



KROOM



WHAT...?!

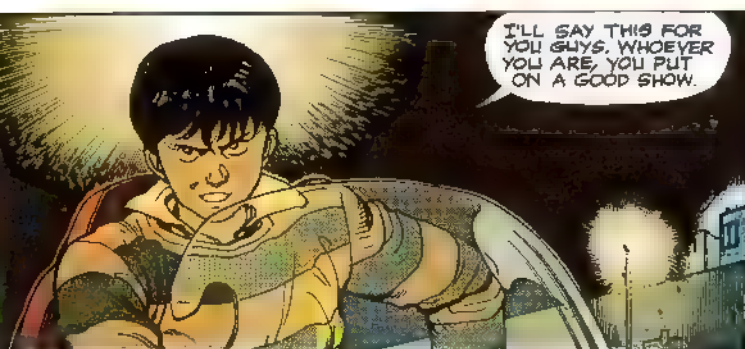


IT
CAME FROM
THE OLD
CITY.



COULD IT
HAVE BEEN
THE OLYMPIC
SITE?

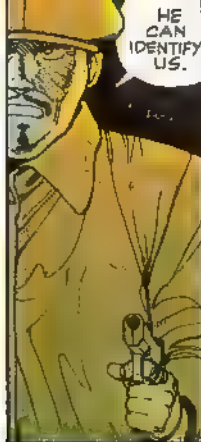




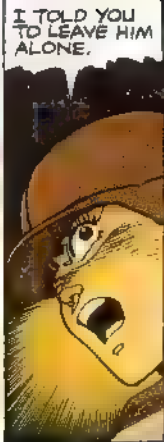


YOU'RE RIGHT. LET'S GO.

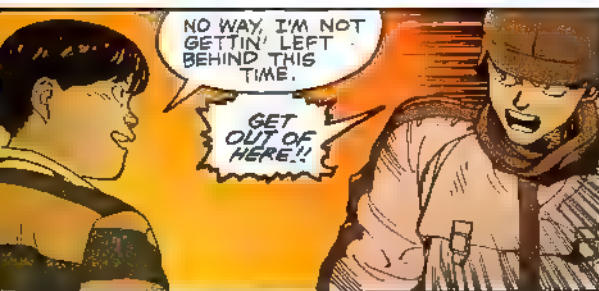
NOT SO FAST!



HE CAN IDENTIFY US.



I TOLD YOU TO LEAVE HIM ALONE.



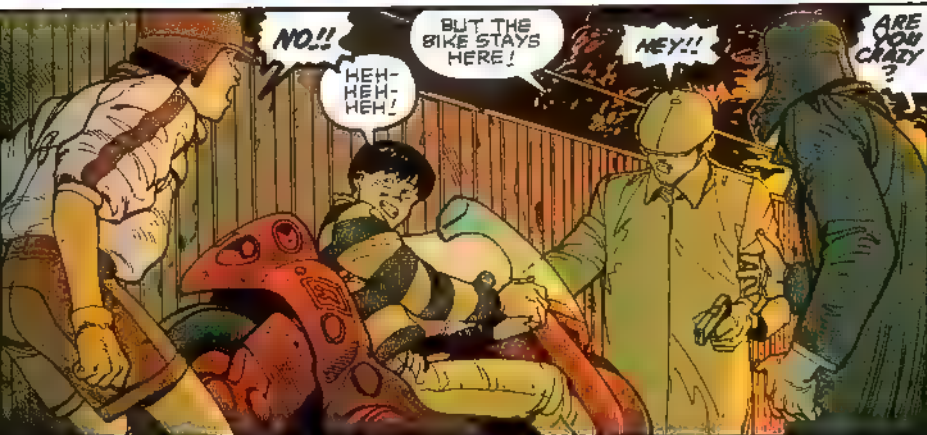
NO WAY, I'M NOT GETTIN' LEFT BEHIND THIS TIME.

GET OUT OF HERE!!



WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE HIM WITH US.

WHAT?



NO!!

BUT THE BIKE STAYS HERE!

HEH-HEH-HEH!

HEY!!

ARE YOU CRAZY?



YEAH!

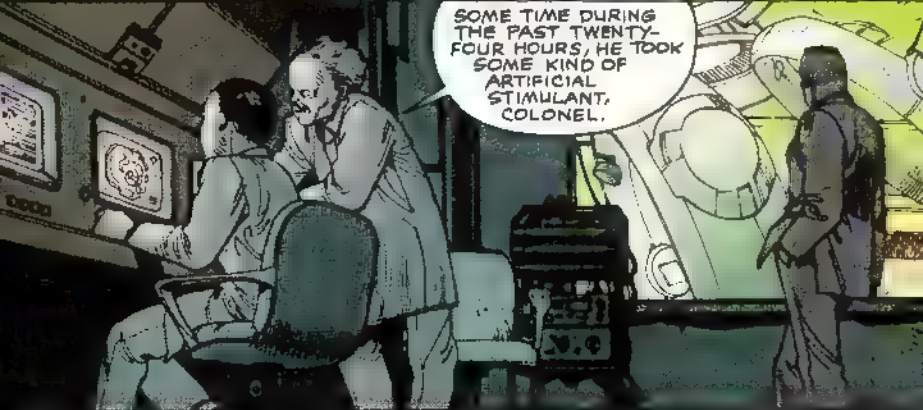
YOU CAN'T ASK ME TO ABANDON MY BIKE!

SHOULD BE. THIS IS A RESTRICTED AREA.

BUT THE LAST FEW DAYS, THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF TRAFFIC HERE.

SHHNE

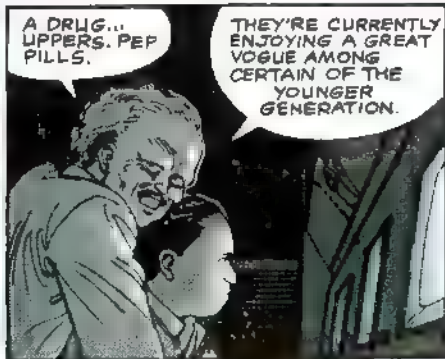
SHANE



SOME TIME DURING THE PAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, HE TOOK SOME KIND OF ARTIFICIAL STIMULANT, COLONEL.



STIMULANT?



A DRUG... UPPERS. PEP PILLS.

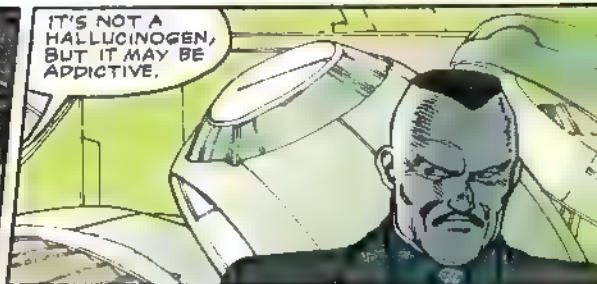
THEY'RE CURRENTLY ENJOYING A GREAT VOGUE AMONG CERTAIN OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION.



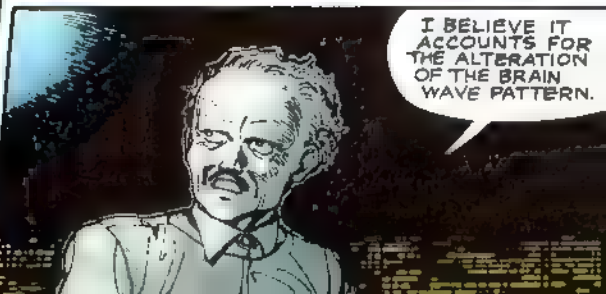
THIS ONE SEEMS TO BE A SIMPLE COMBINATION OF OVER-THE-COUNTER INGREDIENTS.



ANY REASONABLY SKILLED PHARMACIST COULD SYNTHESIZE IT.



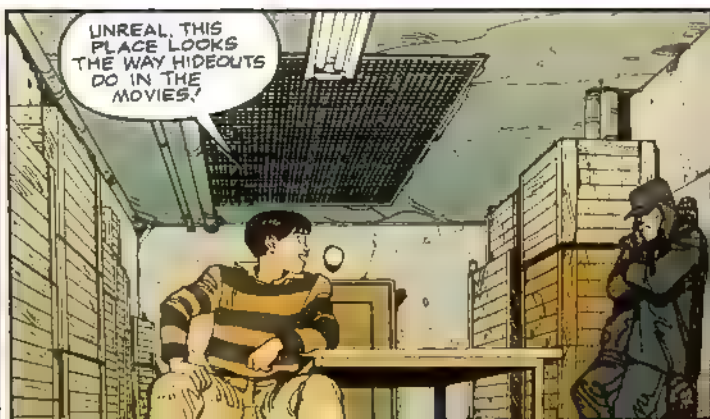
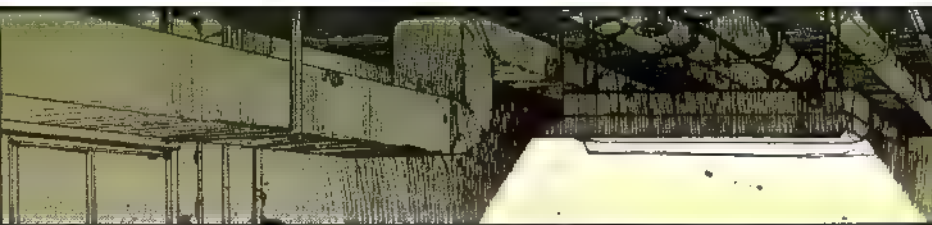
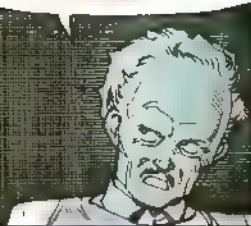
IT'S NOT A HALLUCINOGEN, BUT IT MAY BE ADDICTIVE.



I BELIEVE IT ACCOUNTS FOR THE ALTERATION OF THE BRAIN WAVE PATTERN.



...IS THAT THIS IS THE FIRST SUCH CASE I'VE ENCOUNTERED, AND I'M AT A LOSS AS TO HOW TO PROCEED.





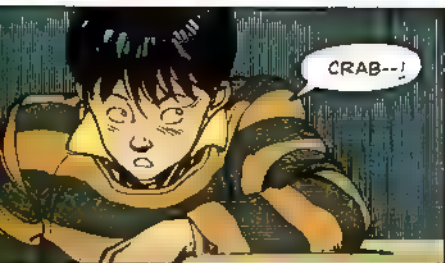
YOU SHOULD
HAVE TOLD ME
IMMEDIATELY,
KAY!

WE THOUGHT
OUR REPORT TOOK
PRECEDENCE.

ARE
YOU
SURE IT'S
HIM?

DEFINITELY.

HERE?!



CRAB--!

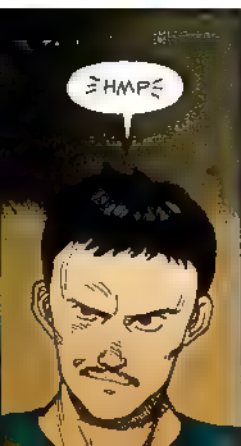
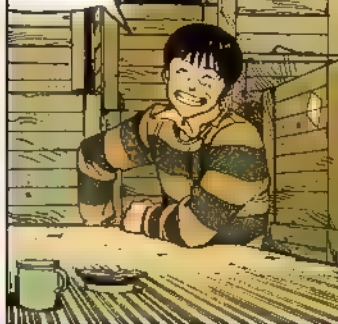


thum-thum-thum-thum

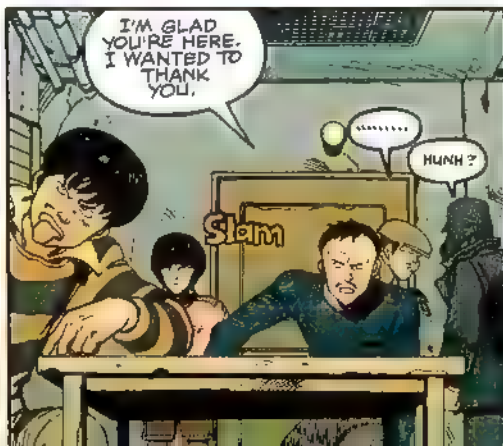


BAM

AH...AH...
FANCY
MEETING
YOU HERE...
HEH.



SHMP



I'M GLAD
YOU'RE HERE.
I WANTED TO
THANK
YOU.

Slam

SHMP

HUNH?



THANK...?



SO... THAT
PILL... HAVE
YOU STILL
GOT IT?



THE
PILL?
THAT
PILL?



AH... NO. I
THREW IT AWAY
INTO THE
CANAL.



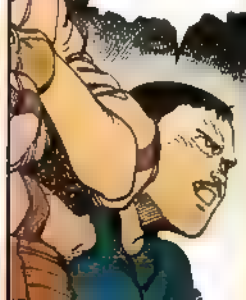
WE'RE
PART OF AN
UNDERGROUND
RESISTANCE
ORGANIZATION,
AND...



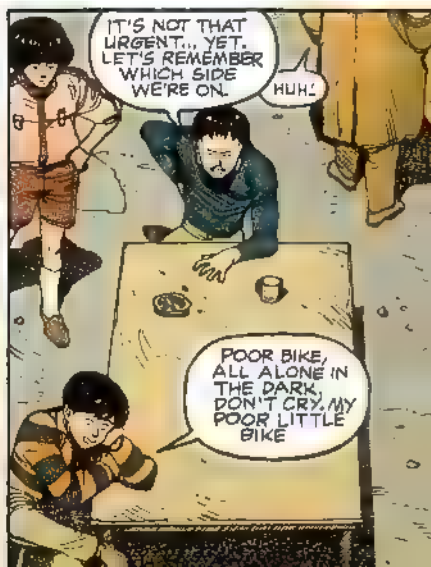
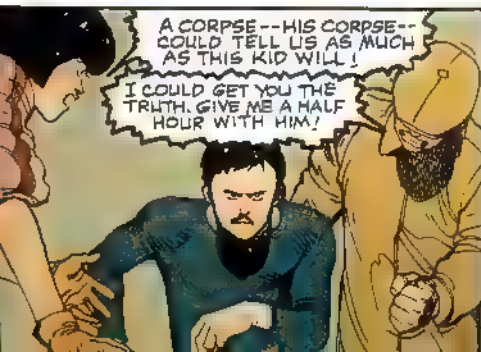
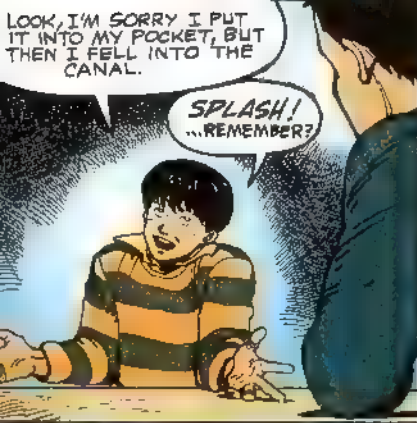
DON'T,
RYUSAKU!
WE CAN'T
TRUST--!

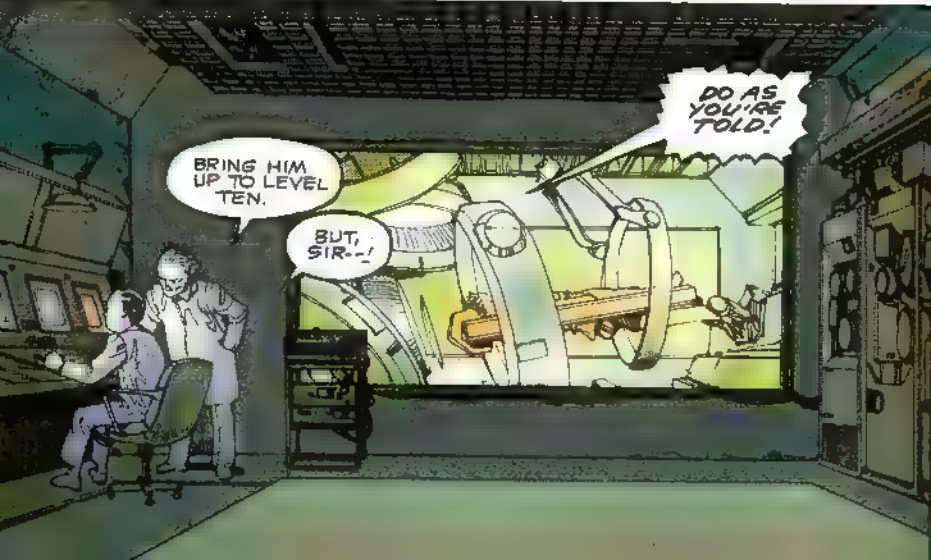
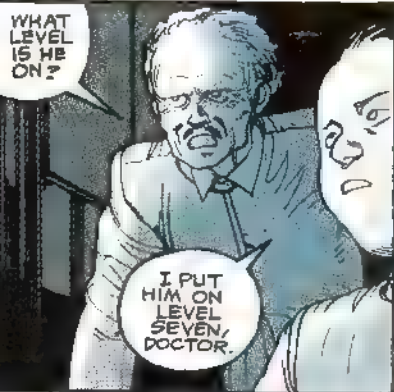
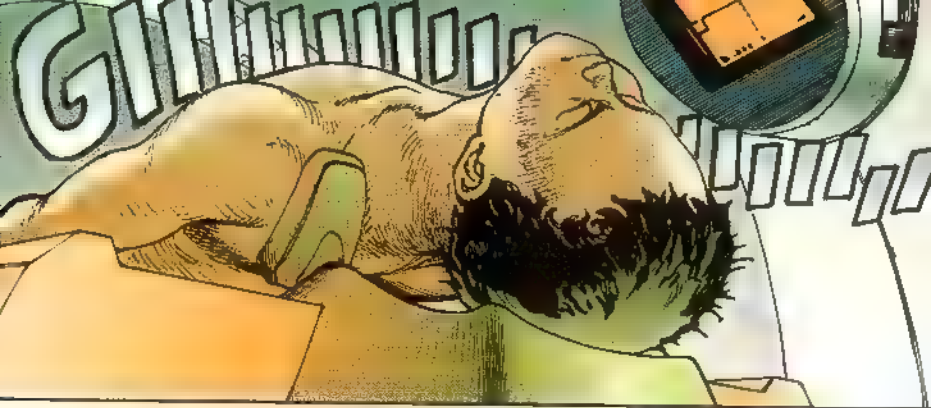


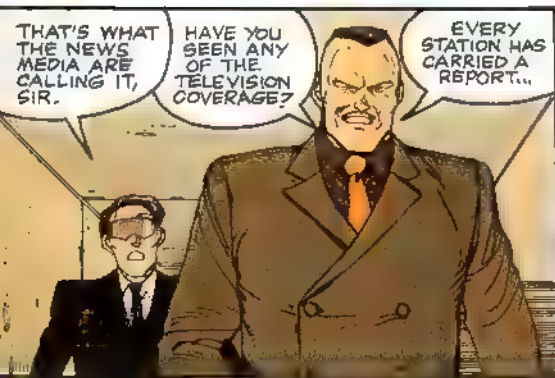
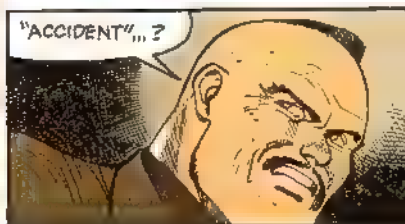
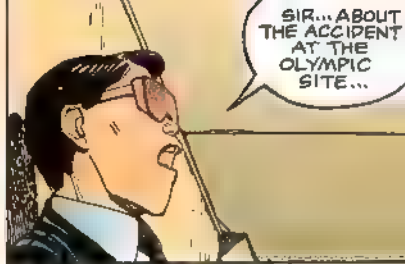
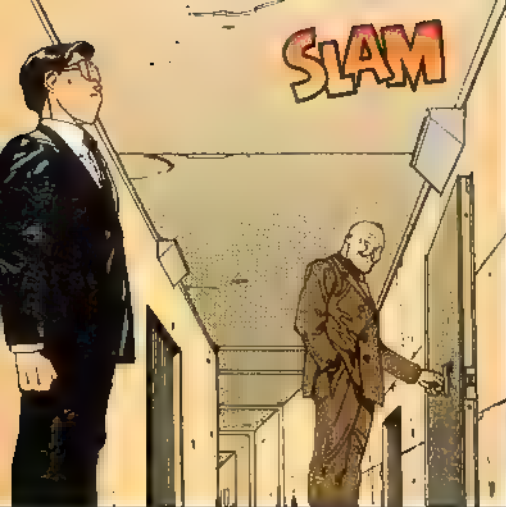
OH, YOU DID, HUNH?
WELL, YOU LISTEN
TO ME.

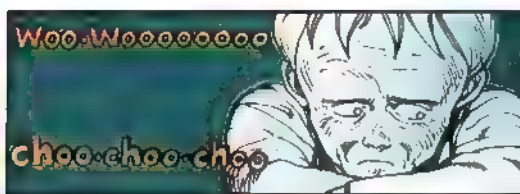
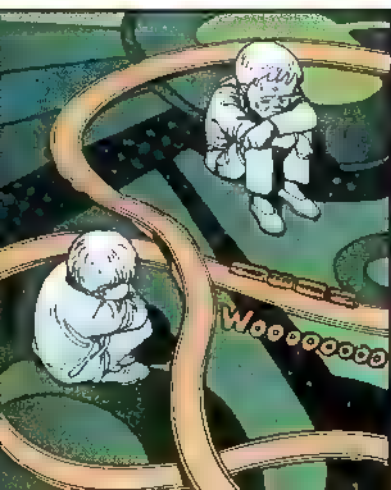


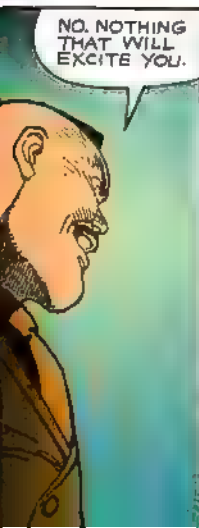
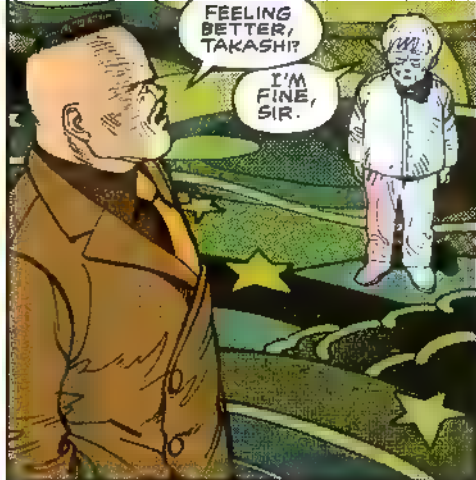
QUIET!!

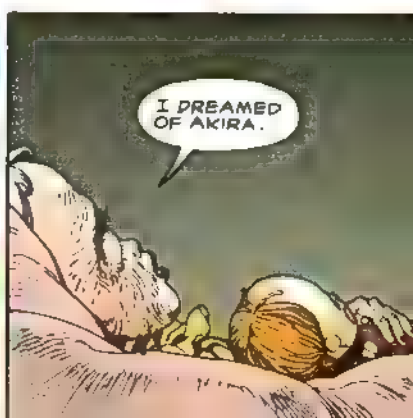
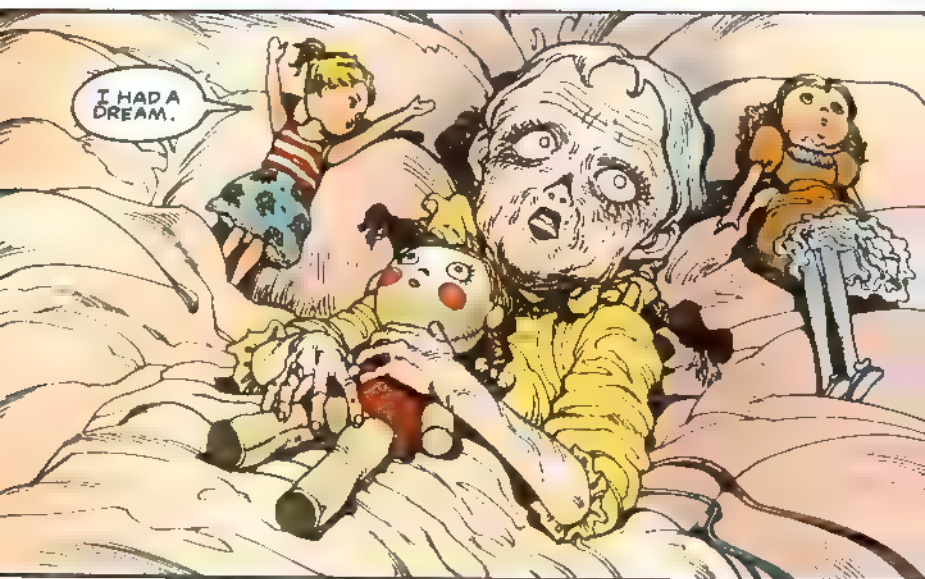


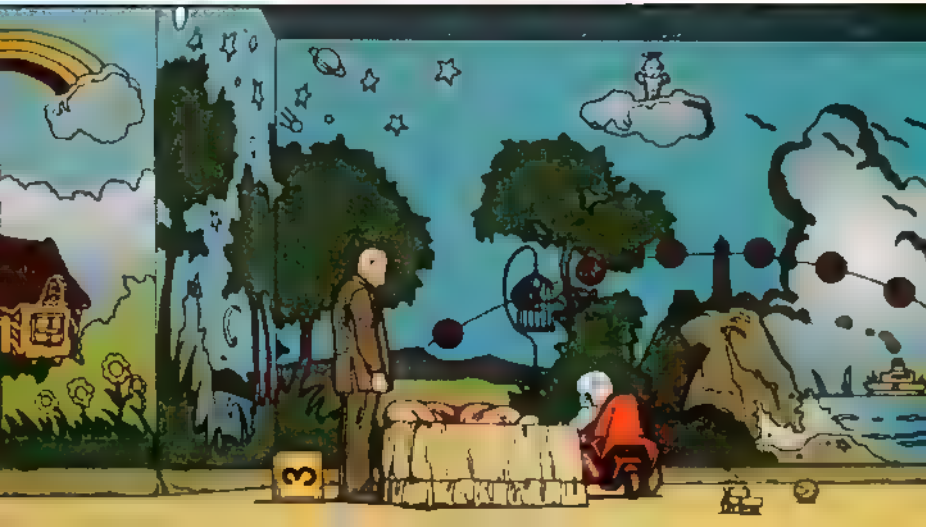
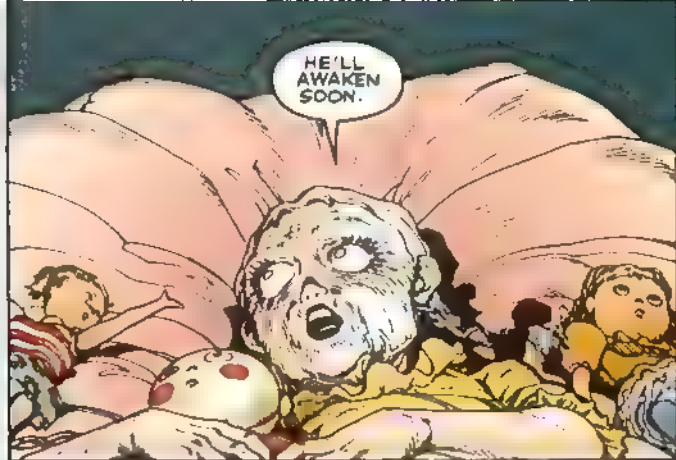


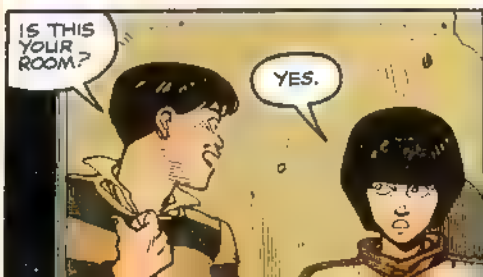
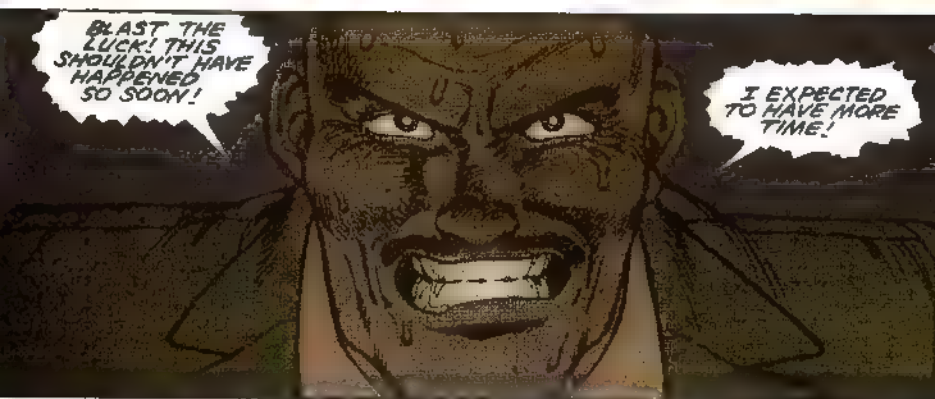


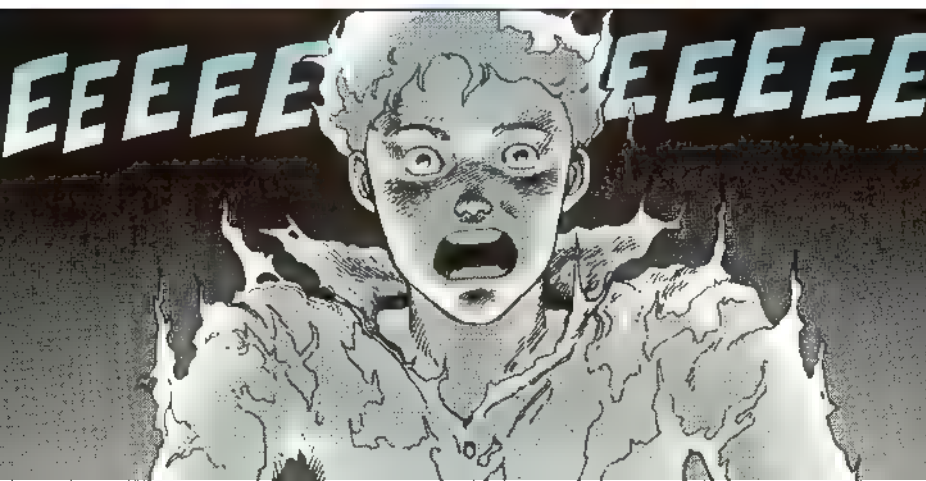
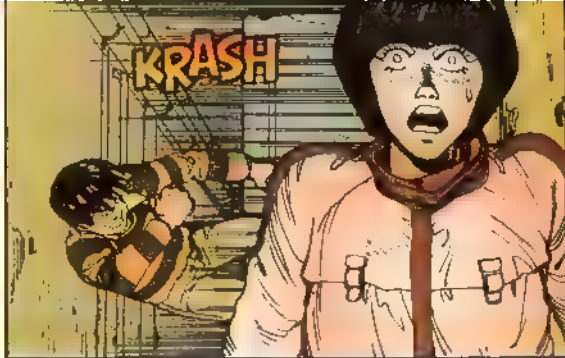


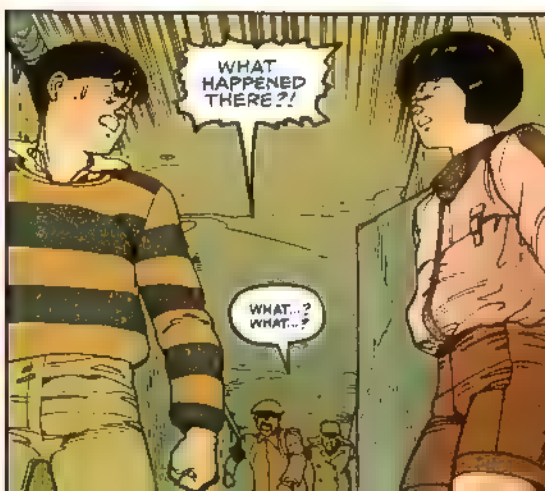


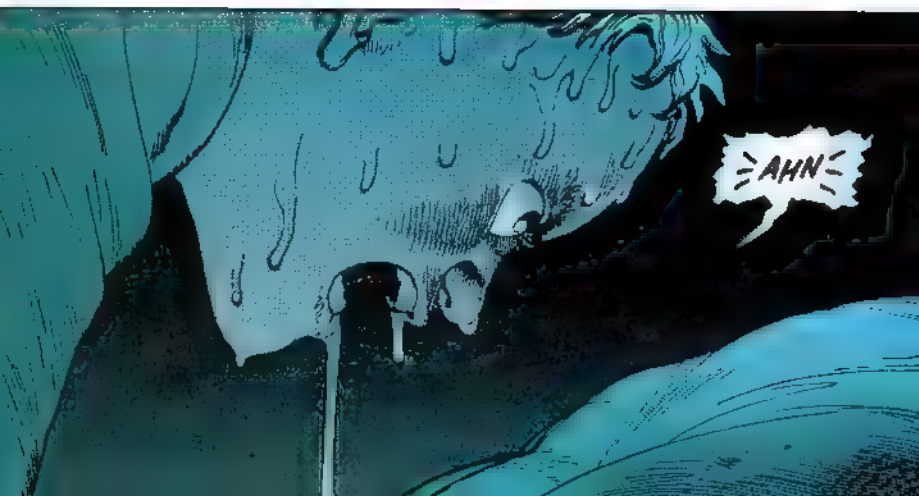
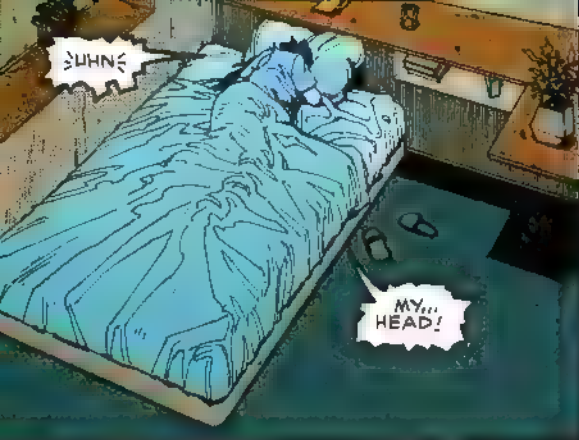


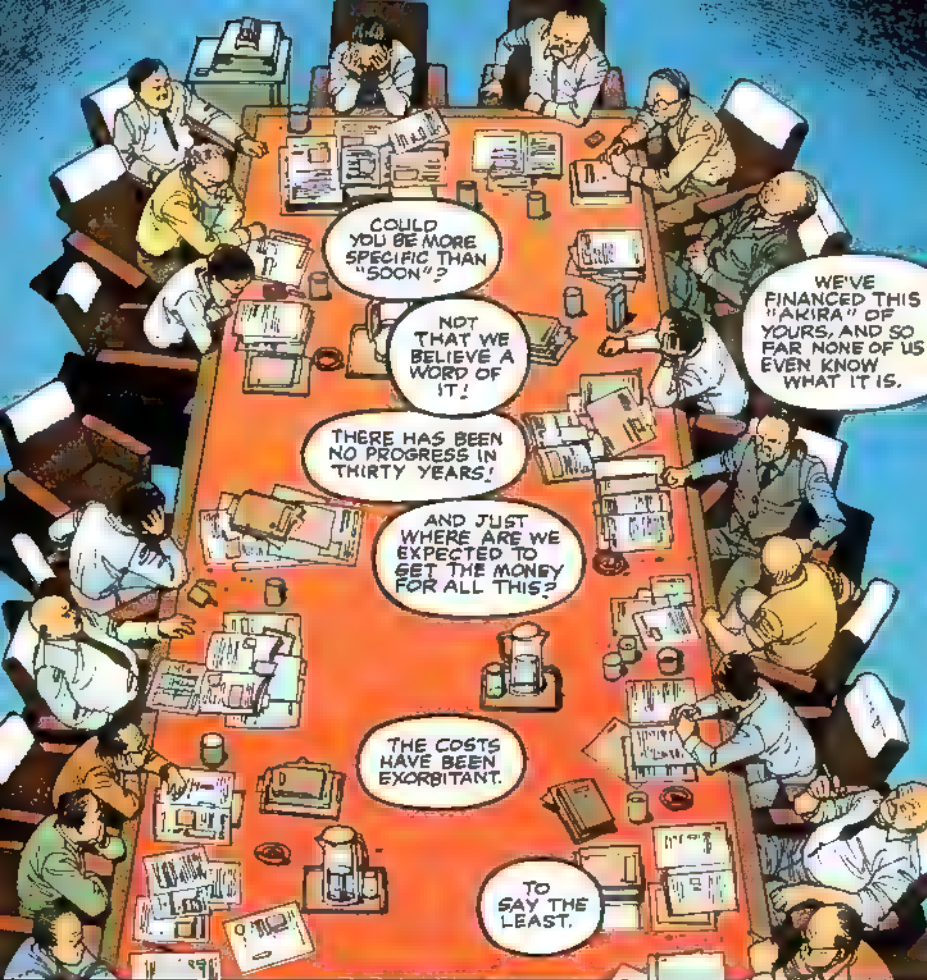












COULD YOU BE MORE SPECIFIC THAN "SOON"?

NOT THAT WE BELIEVE A WORD OF IT!

THERE HAS BEEN NO PROGRESS IN THIRTY YEARS!

AND JUST WHERE ARE WE EXPECTED TO GET THE MONEY FOR ALL THIS?

THE COSTS HAVE BEEN EXORBITANT.

TO SAY THE LEAST.

WE'VE FINANCED THIS "AKIRA" OF YOURS, AND SO FAR NONE OF US EVEN KNOW WHAT IT IS.

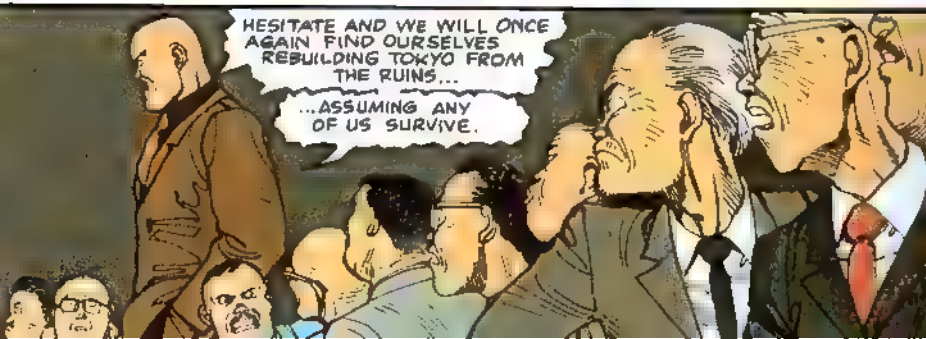
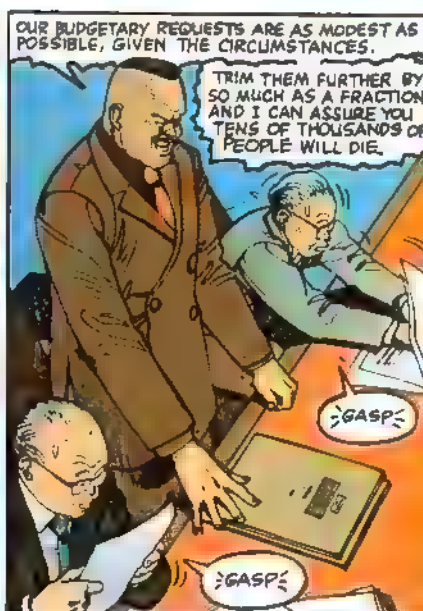
ALL WE HAVE TO SHOW FOR OUR EXPENDITURES IS THAT GROTESQUE NURSERY.

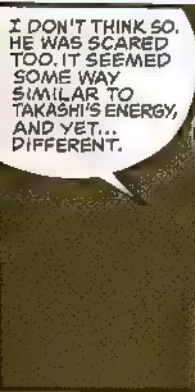
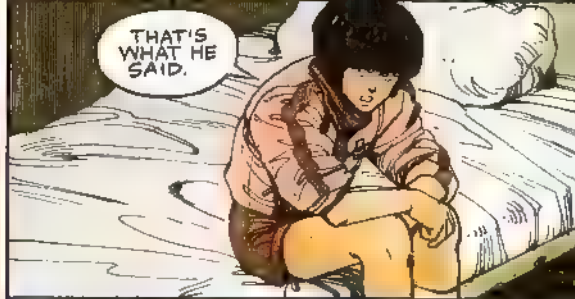
AND THERE ARE THE UPCOMING OLYMPICS TO CONSIDER. WE MUST PUT THE WAR AND ITS MEMORIES BEHIND US. WE HAVE NO MONEY TO SPEND ON GHOSTS.

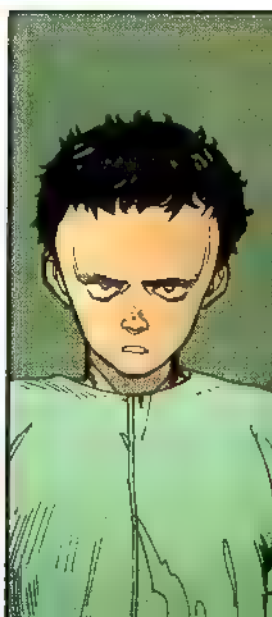
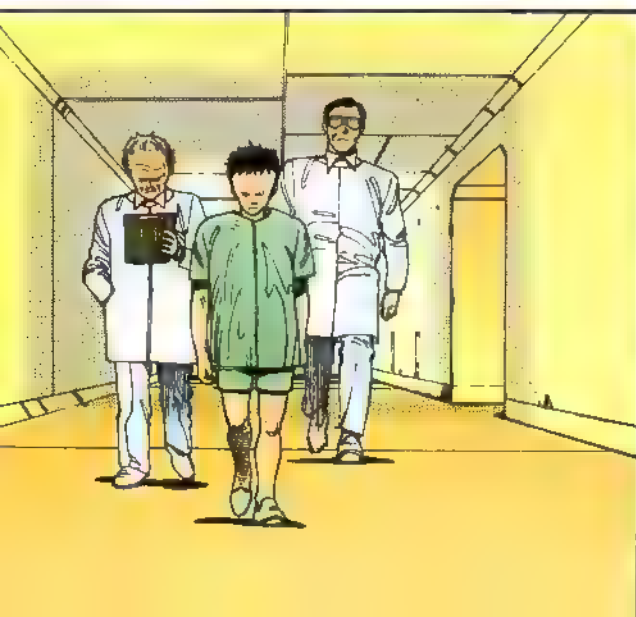
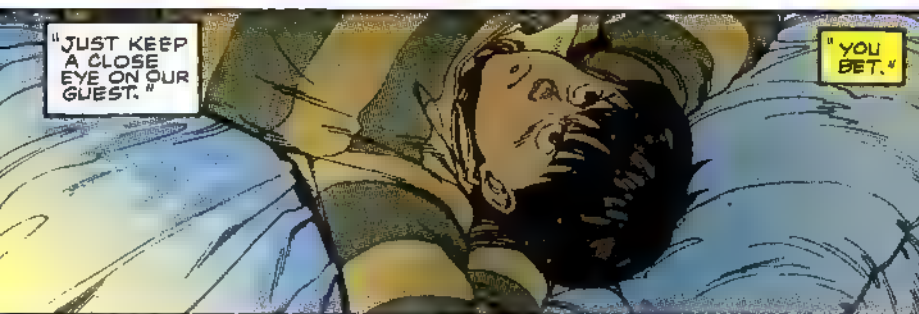
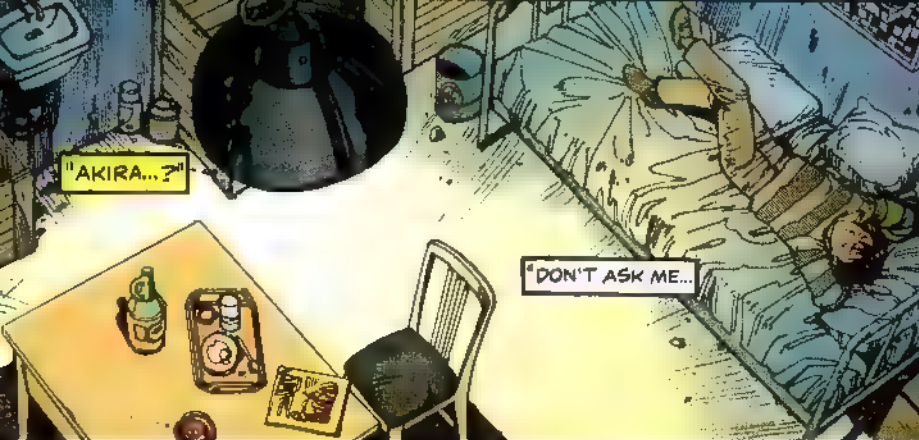
THAT'S WHAT I'VE SAID ALL ALONG!

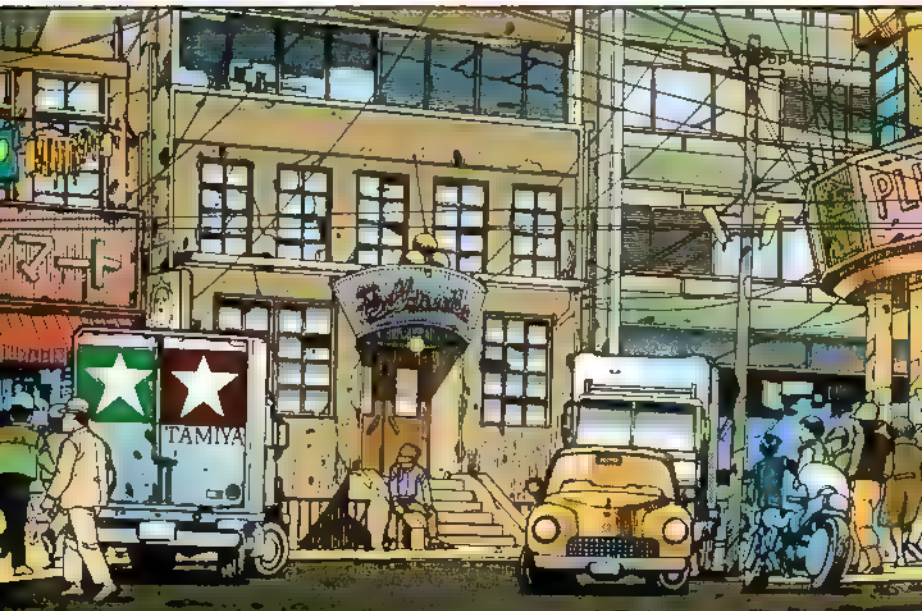
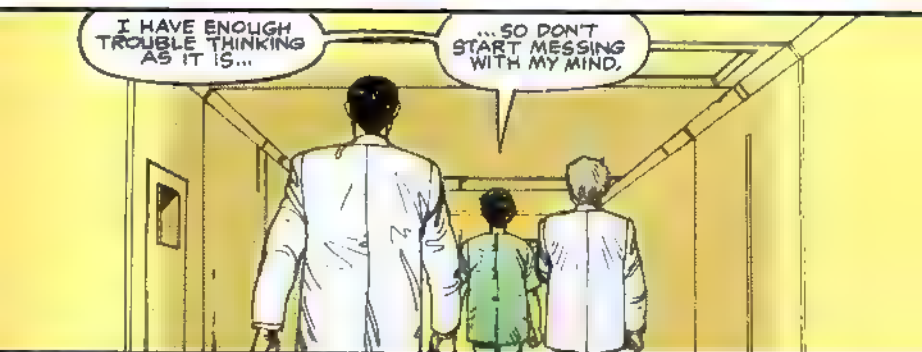
THE MONEY COULD HAVE GONE TO WELFARE.

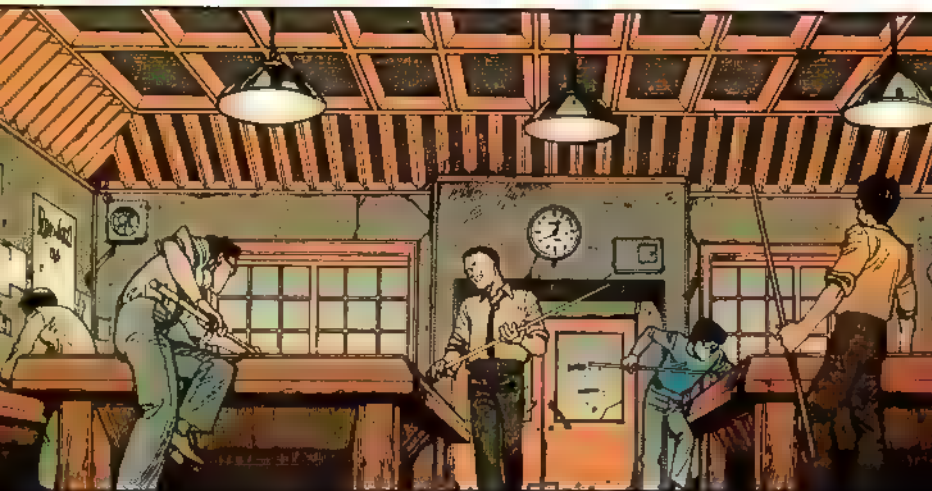
SHUT UP!





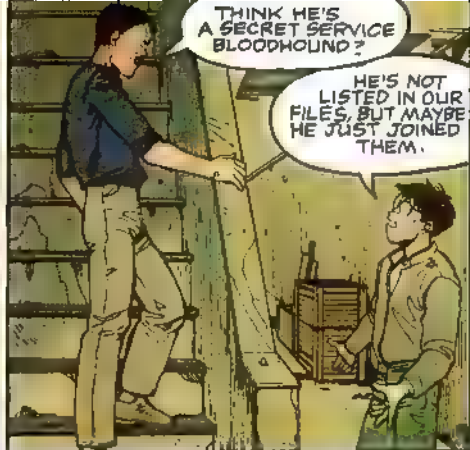








A SUSPICIOUS CHARACTER...?

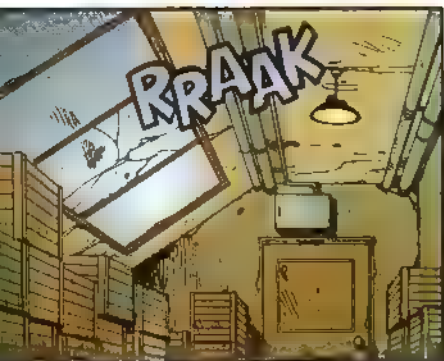


THINK HE'S A SECRET SERVICE BLOODHOUND?

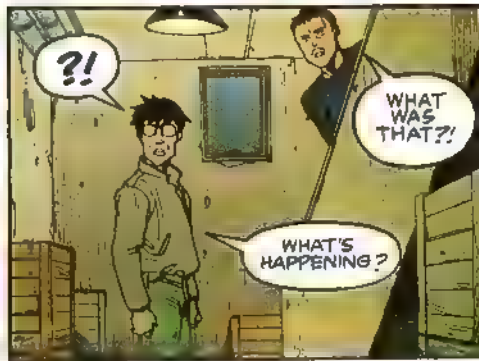
HE'S NOT LISTED IN OUR FILES, BUT MAYBE HE JUST JOINED THEM.



HE'S BEEN HANGING AROUND FOR THE LAST WEEK.



RRAAK



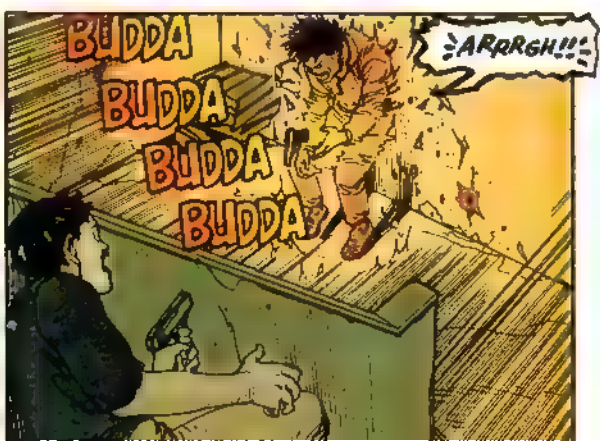
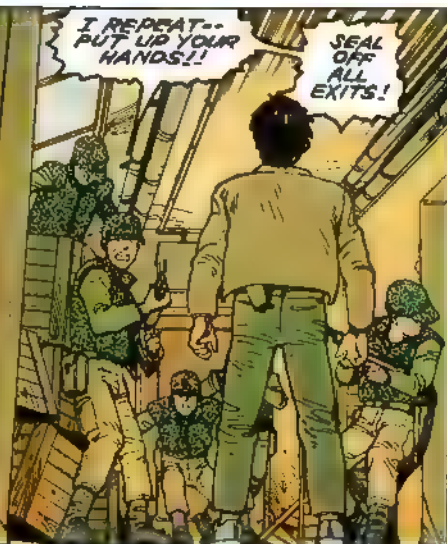
?!

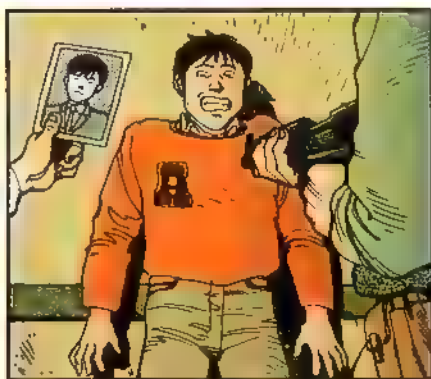
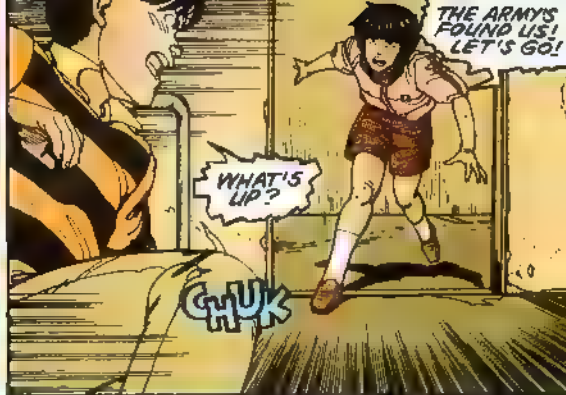
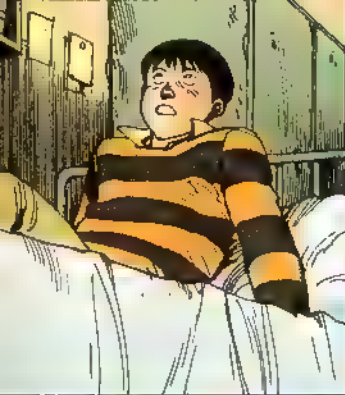
WHAT WAS THAT?!

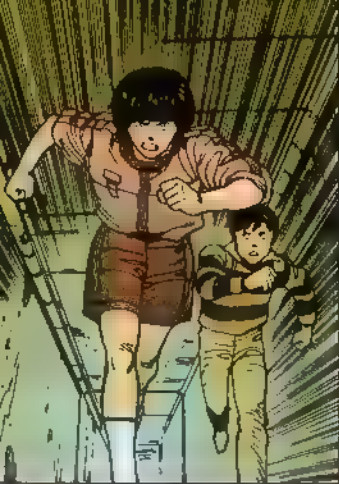
WHAT'S HAPPENING?



KRASH





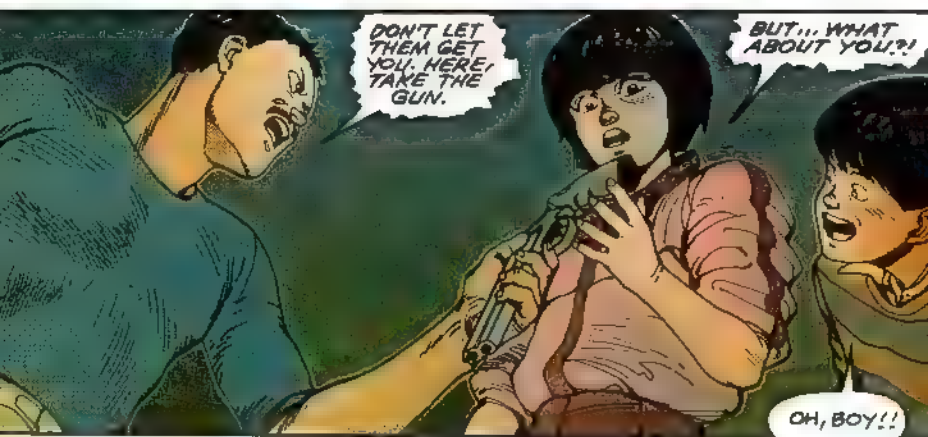


WE CAN'T GO UPSTAIRS!

WHERE ELSE IS THERE?!



UNDERGROUND!



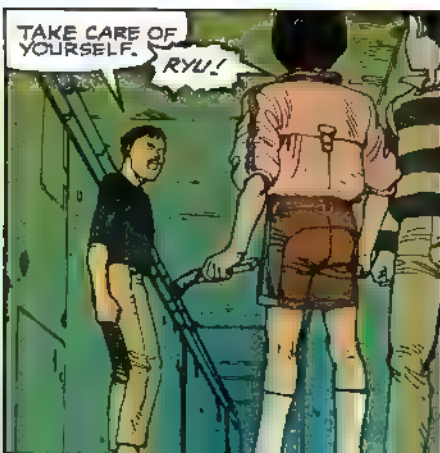
DON'T LET THEM GET YOU. HERE, TAKE THE GUN.

BUT... WHAT ABOUT YOU?!

OH, BOY!!



I'LL MANAGE, AS SOON AS YOU'VE LOST THEM, MAKE CONTACT WITH US... YOU KNOW HOW.

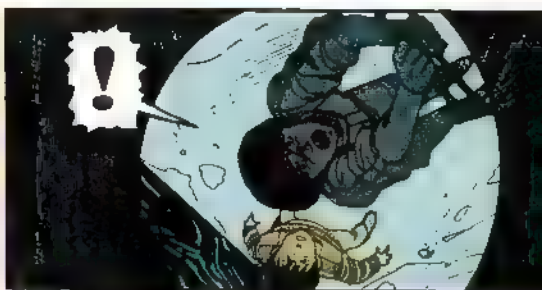
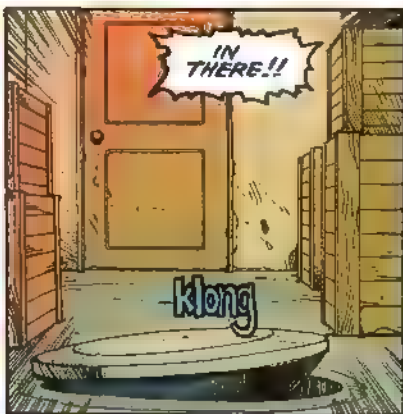
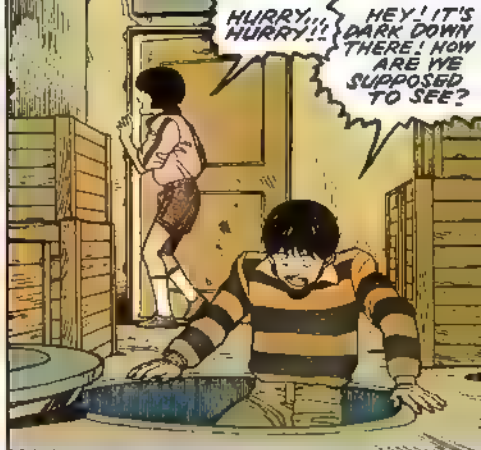


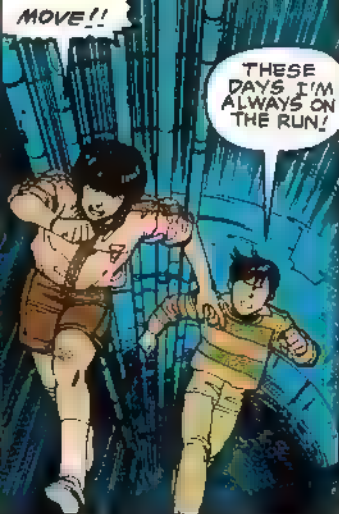
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.

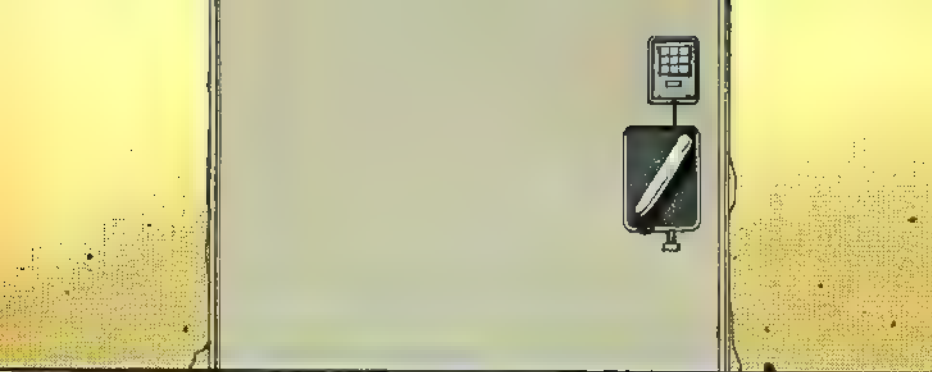
RYU!



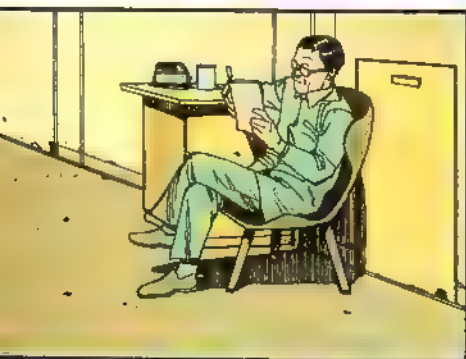
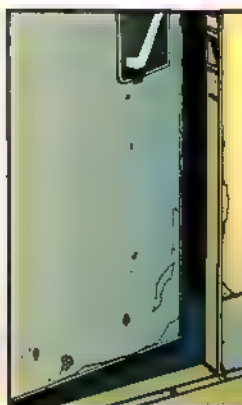
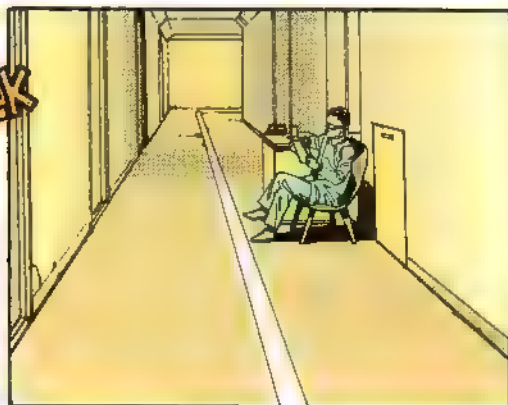
RYUSAKU!!!



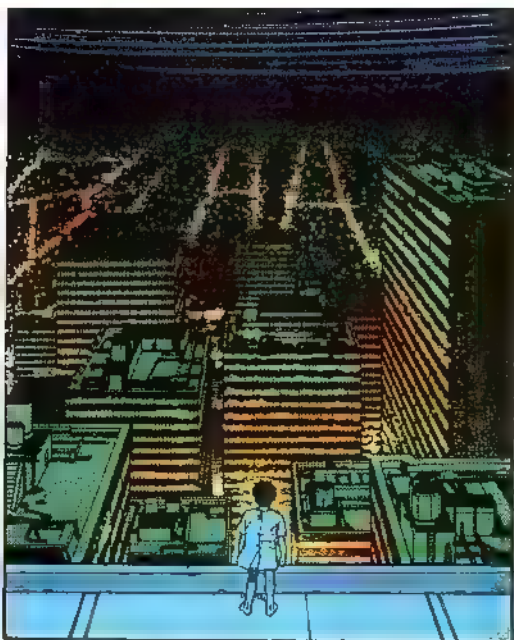
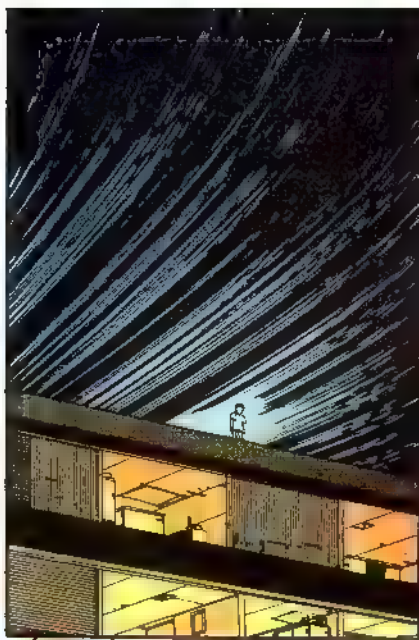


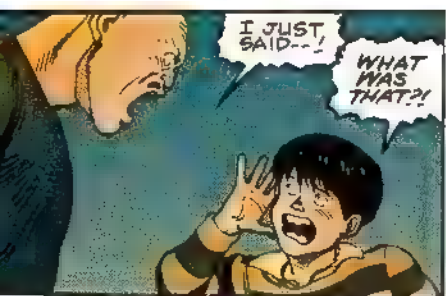
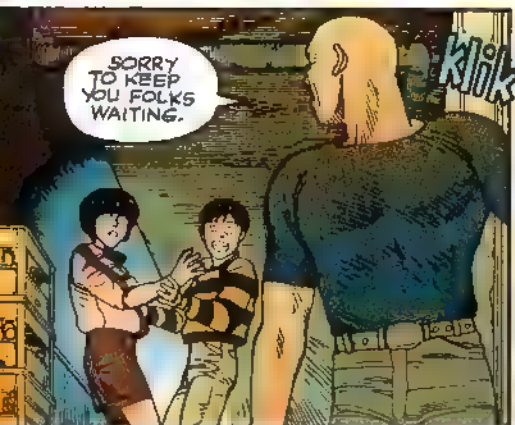


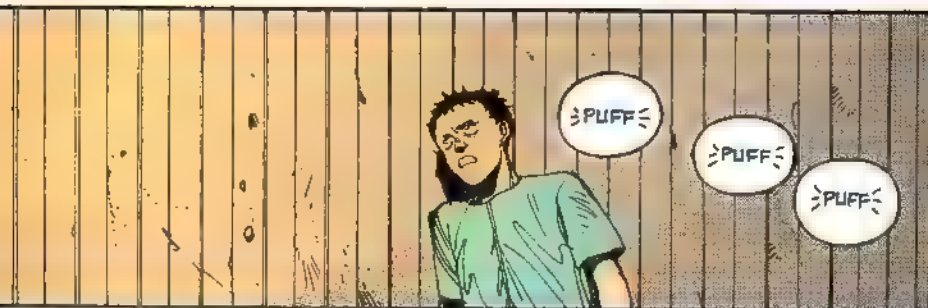
KREK

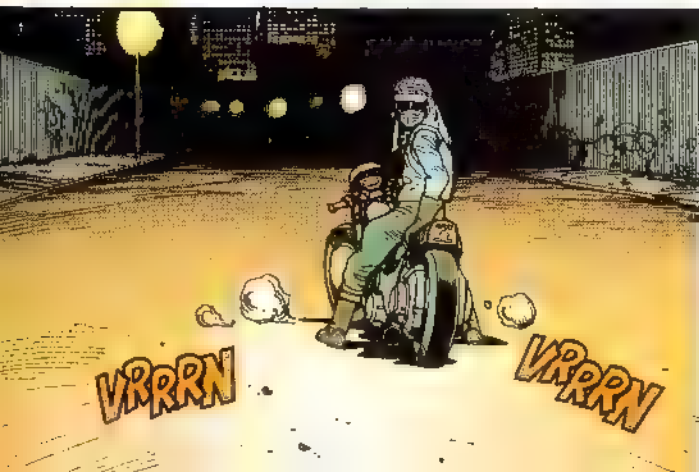


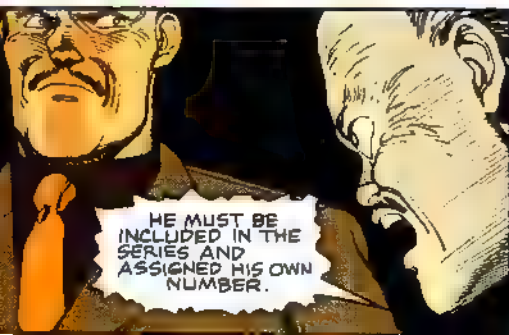
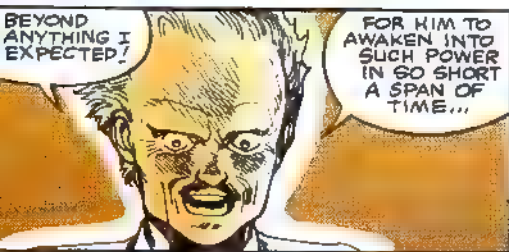
TH-THE PAIN
...I CAN'T
STAND IT.

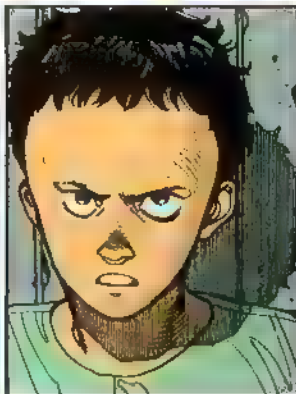
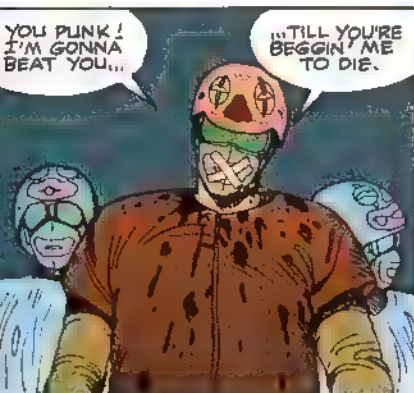
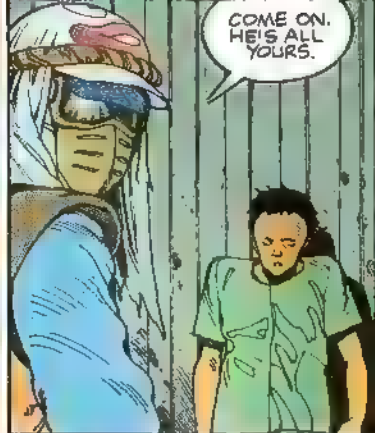


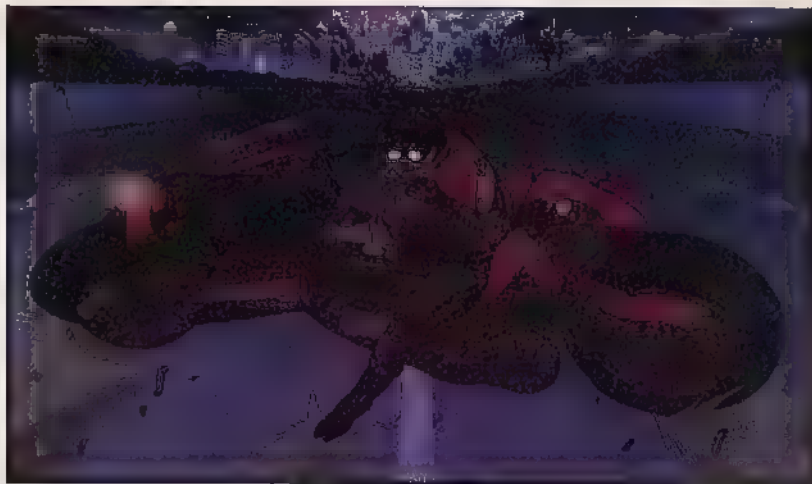












AKIRA

THE ANIMATED MOVIE

Kaneda, Tetsuo, and the rest of *Akira's* large cast have sprung into life and incredible motion. Katsuhiro Otomo has brought his post World War III epic from the comics to full animation in a feature film produced through the partnership of Kodansha Ltd.; Mainichi Broadcasting System, Inc.; Bandai Co., Ltd.; Hakuhodo Incorporated; Toho Co., Ltd.; Laserdisc Corporation; Sumitomo Corporation; and Tokyo Movie Shinsha Co., Ltd.

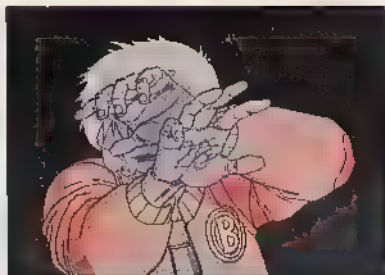


Otomo at Tokyo's Imperial Hotel for the press conference announcing the production of the film.



In the United States, when a comic book or comic strip is turned into a film, the original creator's involvement will usually be limited to a consulting role. At times not even that. The final result which appears in theaters or on videotape often bears small resemblance to the creation it was based upon. No one can say that of the film version of *Akira*, which had its premiere in Tokyo on July 16th.

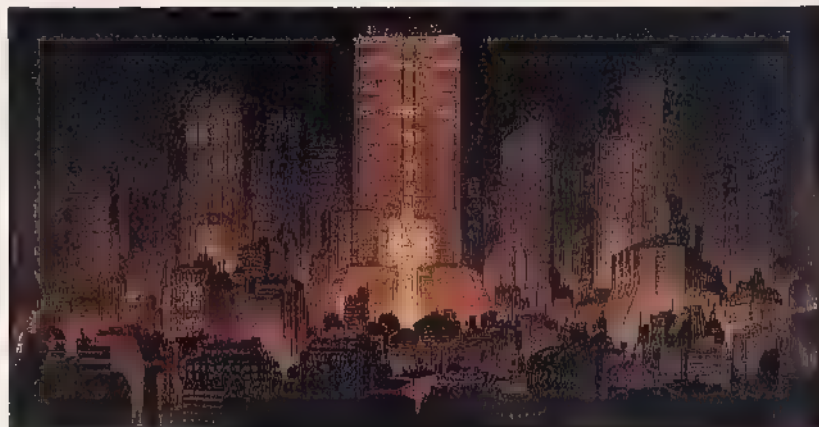
Katsuhiro Otomo has successfully managed the triple feat of handling the story, the screenplay (in cooperation with Izo Hashimoto), and the direction of the movie. In addition, Otomo also did the film's storyboards, taking six months off from his work on the comics feature in order to complete this important phase of production which sets into place the story's visual and narrative flow.



Can a saga designed for 1800 pages of comics fit into two hours of onscreen time? Otomo has boldly reconstructed the comic's storyline (not yet completed), keeping the same theme, but striving for greater simplicity to allow for full cinematic effect and to avoid the feeling of merely doing ■ 'digest version' of the comic book.

Visually, Otomo admires the fluid quality of the best Disney animation and has generated over 160,000 animation cells (a half hour of TV animation utilizes about 4000 cells) to achieve the results he wanted. An epic approach for an epic in animation.

Above: the animated Takashi, Number 26.
Below: the Laboratory Building rises in the center of the Neo-Tokyo cityscape.



STANDARD FORM

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STANDARD FORM

Threads. Slowly intertwining. Coming together. Twisting tighter. The construction site for the coming Olympic games in post World War III Neo-Tokyo is rocked by an explosion, the work of anti-government rebels. In ■ secret government project controlled by the man known only as the Colonel, a wizened child-woman awakens from a dream. Her dream is of someone called AKIRA. She dreams he will soon arise. On the streets, the young delinquent, Kaneda, object of government pursuit and rebel scrutiny, finds his authority over the motorcycle gang he leads suddenly challenged. The challenger is his friend, Tetsuo, who, following a mysterious highway accident, seems to be changing. Growing distant. Growing strange. Threads, Twisting, Tighter, Tighter until . . . something must break.

KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S

AKIRA



This scan produced by:

X-FUTURE

I love um

I buy um

I preserve um

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A detailed illustration of Tetsuo Shima, a character from the manga Akira. He is depicted from the waist up, standing with a serious expression. He has short, dark hair and is wearing a yellow, double-breasted trench coat over a dark, high-collared shirt. His arms are crossed, and he is wearing dark, form-fitting gloves. He is also wearing dark, form-fitting leggings and dark boots. The background features large, stylized green Japanese characters, likely 'アキラ' (Akira). The character's shadow is cast on the ground below him.

AKIRA

BY

**KATSUHIRO
O T O M O**